

Current Volunteers**Castolon**

Kenn & Linda Sutton—Camphosts (8th)
 Rick & Debbie Trimble—Camphost (3rd)
 Bob Douat—Visitor Center (9th)
 Ted Griffith—Visitor Center (2nd)
 Steve & Tina Ehrman—Backcountry (9th)

Chisos Basin

Ed Davis—Camphost (10th)
 Doug & Kay Combs—Camphosts (10th)
 Dave England—Visitor Center (2nd)
 John & Sue Ewan—Visitor Center (1st)

Panther Junction

Steve Blythe and Daisy Welch—V&RP River (4th)
 Joan Spalding—ScRM (2nd)
 Riley & Karen Caton—EMS (4th)
 Karren Brown—Admin (2nd)
 Joan Spalding—ScRM (2nd)
 Pat Staggs—Maintenance (1st)
 Marisol Gama—SCA ScRM

Persimmon Gap

Jim Scanlon—Visitor Center (3rd)
 Dan & Rosemary Decker—Visitor Center (1st)

Rio Grande Village

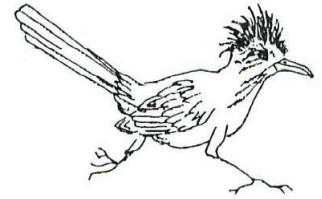
Terry Brackeen—Backcountry (4th)
 Jep Robertson & Renae Clark—Backcountry(2nd)
 David Marcum—Camphost (1st)
 Don & Karen Richardson—Camphost (1st)
 Glenda & Robert Overfelt—Visitor Center (7th)
 Jimmy Duke—Visitor Center (1st)

Resident and remote volunteers

Reine Wonite— Park Videographer (11th)
 Jim Bishop-BBNHA

* Number in () indicates years of service

The Water Situation at Big Bend this Season



Welcome to Big Bend National Park! Oh, and by the way, try not to use too much water. We are in Stage Two Water Restrictions in every location except Rio Grande Village. **Stage 2 Water Restrictions** (otherwise known as Severe Water Shortage) means that all of Stage 1 restrictions apply plus:

No outside watering (except loading dock at lodge).

No car washing.

The PJ wash rack (vehicle wash area in Maintenance) is closed.

There is a reduced flow rate at all public water spigots.

No administrative uses of water except those needed to protect life, health, and safety. (Panther Junction only)

Stage One Water Restrictions (Moderate Water Shortage) include:

Ask for voluntary water conservation by all residents and visitors.

Ask residents to reduce outside water use such as watering and car washing.

Administrative uses of water, such as washing vehicles, rinsing fire hoses and flushing fire hydrants should be minimized, or if possible, performed at another park location not undergoing a water shortage.

As all the seasonal help arrives, including the volunteers, we will have a better gauge as to how the water situation is holding up. Stage 3 restrictions limit everyone to 25 gallons of water a day, which is a good goal for us all to aim for while at Stage 2. If we do reach Stage 3, decisions will be made about closing visitor centers and other facilities. Absolutely no one wants this to happen.

I will be emailing a water calculator which is very interesting, and was provided to the employees here during the summer when things were looking particularly grim.

(continued on next page)

The Water Situation at Big Bend this Season continued.....

Also, all the volunteers and residents at Panther Junction, Castolon, Persimmon Gap, and Chisos Basin are being asked to read their water meter at the first of every month. I will be sending out a document via email about "How to read your water meter" which should answer most questions about this task. If you are not receiving email, please let me know and I can provide a hard copy for you. This especially applies to the volunteers at Panther Junction. I am going to add a line on the digital timesheet that goes out each month that says: "Water meter reading _____" Just jot the reading in there and I will forward it on to the responsible party.

I am not sure of the situation concerning water meters for the Chisos Basin camphosts, the Castolon RV Resort area, or the RV site behind the Persimmon Gap Visitor Center. Very likely some of these areas share a common water meter. We do want to encourage water conservation, but some of you may not be able to read your meter as requested due to the set up in your area. However, I will say that at Persimmon Gap, water is being trucked in from Rio Grande Village at considerable effort and cost. At Castolon, water is being trucked from RGV as needed to supplement the supply there. Therefore these locations need to be particularly aware of their need for water conservation regardless of whether it is possible to calculate usage or not. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter!

This from our new Park Pilot, Greg Drum:

I would like to extend an invitation once again for all employees and volunteers to tag along with me during one of my routine patrol flights of the park. My ability to take passengers is of course mission, time, and space dependent, but much of my patrol flying is done solo, which is an awful waste of airplane seats. The company and extra set of eyes would be much welcomed, and in the end, having more than one person in the airplane benefits the park, the employees, and in turn the visitors.

Leave a message at (432)371-2398 or email me at Greg_Drum@nps.gov with your contact information and I will get in touch with you to pencil you in for a patrol flight as space becomes available.



If you would like the flight to happen during your normally scheduled work time, then make sure you have approval from your supervisor to be away from your normal duty station. Also remember, only park employees and **current/active** volunteers are allowed aboard DOI aircraft. If you fly in the park airplane more than a couple times per year, then you are considered a "frequent" aviation user and you need to attend a B3 basic aviation safety training session.

Greg Drum, U.S. Park Ranger/Pilot
Big Bend National Park

New Faces at Big Bend this fall



David Marcum spends over six months a year RV'ing around the country and when he's not RV'ing he's in Nebraska visiting his daughters. His hobbies include photography, kayaking, hiking, golf, and just enjoying retirement. David retired in 2004, after 35 years with the Department of Defense working in base operations, education services, and medical services. He will be volunteering at the **Rio Grande Village Campground**.

A Midwest refugee turned desert rat, **Jim Scanlon** has been coming to Big Bend for 25 years. This will be his third stint as a volunteer, all at **Persimmon Gap Visitor Center**. Most of Jim's career has been teaching geography at community colleges, although he has also worked for nonprofits. His volunteer activities include patrolling wilderness areas for the Bureau of Land Management, and constructing and restoring hiking trails with the New Mexico Volunteers for the Outdoors. In the early 1980s Jim was a Peace Corp Volunteer in the Philippines.



Don and Karen Richardson, originally from the Colorado Springs area, lived in Pagosa Springs, Colorado, for seven and a half years before becoming full time RVers. Don is a retired fireman and electrician; Karen is a retired occupational therapist and driver rehabilitation specialist. Both enjoy exploring the country behind the wheel, on an ATV or on foot. The Richardsons enjoy meeting people and have been camp hosts in Durango for the last two summers. They travel with their sweet kitty, Trixie, AKA Slasher and will be volunteering at **Rio Grande Village Campground**.

Pat Staggs may be a new volunteer at Big Bend but he is not a stranger to the park. It would be safe to say that he has hiked it from one end to the other, with his good friend, Jim Murrell. Pat is also a "Friend of Big Bend" turned volunteer or a "double friend"! He is a retired electrician who is assisting the **Maintenance Division** for the months of October and November and lives in San Marcos, Texas.



More New Faces at Big Bend this fall



Dan and Rosemary Decker are full time RVers and this is their first time volunteering for the National Park Service. They are both retired Alaska State Troopers and enjoy hiking, traveling to new parts of the US and Canada, and exploring with their two dogs, Cedar and Sadie. You can find them at the **Persimmon Gap Visitor Center** for the next three months!

As former middle school science teachers in central Illinois, **John and Sue Ewan** have truly enjoyed the opportunities to volunteer in national parks and national wildlife refuges. They write, "The volunteer experiences have broadened what we did as teachers and form the basis for interpretation. We have served at Oregon Islands National Wildlife Refuge, interpreting a seal and sea lion haul out, as well as Western Snowy Plover nesting areas and led tide pool walks. Padre Island National Seashore allowed us to lead birding tours—what a delightful opportunity. Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge was a great place to work in their huge visitor center and lead birding tours. We have served a season in beautiful Zion National Park as camphosts and are definitely looking forward to exploring the incredible beauty of Big Bend."



Chisos Basin Visitor Center Hosts



Jimmy Duke will be helping out at the **Rio Grande Village Visitor Center** this fall. He writes, "I recently retired as the Dean of Mathematics and Natural Science at Calhoun Community College in Decatur, AL. I taught biology full time for 36 years and continue to teach online classes part time for the college. I enjoy traveling more than anything else, along with wildflower photography, and I am particularly fascinated with America's desert environments. I spent a month in the spring of 2014 hiking and tent camping out west including Big Bend, Organ Pipe, and Joshua Tree, and the picture above was taken when I caught up

with my son at Point Reyes in California. I am not an avid birder, but I would say that a childhood fascination with birds is what drew me into biology, and I greatly enjoy birding in Big Bend. I also enjoy canoeing quite a bit, and even though I live in Alabama I have probably done more canoeing on the Rio Grande than I have any other river! I plan to travel as much as possible in retirement, and look forward eagerly to spending more than just a few days in Big Bend. I have three children and the two best grandchildren in the history of human civilization."

Things to remember when you are at Big Bend National Park

by Jane Brown

Look at your feet when you are walking. Stop walking before you look around to admire the scenery. Tripping on rocks is an all too common occurrence here at Big Bend!

My little flashlight is very handy, but somehow in Big Bend at night, it seems like a tiny little flicker of light. This is one dark place; in fact, it really is one of the darkest places in the United States. Be prepared for the dark with a big flashlight and don't leave home without it!

When you first leave a lighted area, stop for a minute and let your eyes adjust to the darkness and move with caution.

All park employees, including volunteers, should always look professional, and therefore need to have neat, clean uniforms which meet the NPS uniform standards. The Volunteer Office can explain where to find the closest washer and dryer. Only wear your volunteer uniform when you are on duty. Do not wear your uniform out of the park unless you are driving a shuttle. Never wear your volunteer uniform in a park where you are not currently signed up as a volunteer. Do not wear bits and pieces of your uniform. It is an all or nothing situation.

If you decide to go hiking by yourself, let someone know where you are going.

Learn more about volunteering in the national parks at www.npsvipnetwork.org. You can read about other volunteers' experiences at various parks and even add your own.

The volunteer office has a set of hiking poles, binoculars, rain jackets, heavy coats, work gloves, work shirts, a good supply of brown slacks, two sleeping bags, two big backpacks, lots of daypacks, a tent, some household items, and a bicycle that we are willing to loan to any volunteers for use during their stay at Big Bend.

Hiking Club reconvenes on Thursday, November 20!

If you are new to Big Bend, the hiking club is a chance for volunteers (and anyone else who wants to come!) to get together for a short hike, visit with one another, and see something that you might not see on your own. These hikes are not Olympic events, but rather moderate exercise with time to "smell the flowers" along the way. We will be taking a radio with us.

This month's hike will be in the East District. Terry Brackeen is going to take us up to Bone Spring. We will leave from the rear parking lot at Panther Junction at 9:00 am. Bring a snack, water, hat, and sunscreen. Transportation will be provided to and from PJ.



Events in the Area

Oct. 31, November 1-2—Chili Cookoff—48h Annual Terlingua International Chili Championship Cookoff; for more information go to www.chili.org/terlingua or call 210-877-8827.

November 2—Day of the Dead, Terlingua-held in the Terlingua Ghostown Cemetery around 6 pm.

Sunday, November 2—Don't forget to "fall back"!

Wednesday, November 5—VIP and Community Potluck—Panther Junction Community Room. Everyone is invited. Come and bring a covered dish to share. Save on trash by bringing your own plates and silverware. Iced tea will be provided. Starts at 6 pm, with a social 1/2 hour, dinner at 6:30 pm.

November 8-Rio Grande River Cleanup sponsored by Big Bend National Park and Big Bend Ranch State Park. Volunteer opportunities are available at both parks. Contact Jane Brown 477-1106 or Jane_Brown@nps.gov for more information.

Thursday, November 13th—Arts and Crafts Fair from 7-9 pm. Panther Junction Community Room. We'll have tables set up across the Community Room where park residents and volunteers are welcome to display their creative projects. Ideas include: photographs, drawings, pastels, crochet or knitting work, quilts, jams, jellies, breads, brews, soaps, collections, and more! Artists and crafters can either choose to display their work, or make it available for purchase. Even if you don't have items to display, come celebrate the creativity of your friends and co-workers. This fun evening is another great opportunity to dust off your dress clothes, or just come in jeans. Wine and snacks provided. Table space is limited, and must be reserved by November 5th. Please contact Jennette to make a half table or full table reservation. Email: Jennette_Jurado@nps.gov, phone: 432-477-1109.

November 21-22, 2014 Art Walk and Gallery Night, Alpine, Texas—art galleries will be open until late into the night and special events are scheduled. Concerts on both Friday and Saturday night. www.artwalkalpine.com

Thursday, Nov. 27 (Thanksgiving Day) 6th Annual Turkey Trot 5K Walk/Run-8 am Panther Junction. Contact information: Allen Etheridge 477-1185

December 6 & 13 - Open Days at the **Davis Mountain Nature Conservancy** site. For more information, contact Greg Crow at gcrow@tnc.org or (480) 458-6860 or go to www.tnc.org and search for "Davis Mountains".

December 3—Holiday Auction— Casa Grande is the employee organization that sponsors social event in the park. Every year they have a holiday auction which is the principal fund-raising event, and is always a lot of fun. Make a donation! Ideas for donations include jewelry, quilts, bread, dinners, photos, babysitting, dog sitting, shuttles, knife sharpening, yard work, car washing, paintings, town trips. Start sewing, baking, painting, thinking. If you can't get to the Interp Office to sign up, call Claudia [477-1108] or email, (Claudia_Arnberger@nps.gov and she will put you on the list.